

THE BEAVERHEAD OUTDOORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTS SPORTSMAN, FARMERS, RANCHERS AND ALL THAT ENJOY OUTDOOR RECREATION IN BEAVERHEAD COUNTY. WE CURRENTLY HAVE OVER 130 MEMBERS.

WE SUPPORT SB-180 WHICH WOULD RESTORE THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF LAND OWNERS LOST LAST SESSION WITH THE PASSAGE OF HB-198. WHILE EMINENT DOMAIN IS A NECESSARY TOOL FOR THE PLANNING OF PUBLIC PROJECTS FOR PUBLIC GOOD, ALLOWING PRIVATE USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN POWERS TO PROJECTS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY CLEARED THE MAJOR FACILITIES SITING ACT REQUIREMENTS IS GRANTING EXTRAORDINARY POWER TO PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. WE WOULD SUPPORT THE USE OF EXISTING UTILITY CORRIDORS AND SOME PUBLIC LANDS WHEN A PUBLIC GOOD CAN BE DEMONSTRATED.

THE BOA MUST STAND WITH THE FARMING AND RANCHING COMMUNITIES, WHO PROVIDE VALUABLE HABITAT FOR DEER, ELK AND MOOSE AS WELL AS PHEASANT AND SAGE GROUSE. MANY OF THESE LAND OWNERS PROVIDE TO THE HUNTER, FREE OF CHARGE, EXCELLENT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES. ALLOWING UNRESTRAINED ENCROACHMENT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WILL DIMINISH LAND VALUES WHILE UPSETTING LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS THAT ALSO PROVIDE HABITAT FOR THE GAME WE IN MONTANA LOVE TO HUNT.

STEVE JENNINGS

BEAVERHEAD OUTDOORS ASSOCIATION